International Rice Genome Sequencing Programme (IRGSP), a consortium comprising of ten countries. Sequence data of 8.8 Mb in the International Gene Bank against our commitment of 2.0 Mb has already been submitted. Complete regeneration/micropropagation protocols for important priority crops like Banana, Apple, Citrus, Litchi, Potato, Sugarcane etc. have been developed. The technology packages are available for Banana, Potato microtubers and minortubers and Sugarance. Demonstrations have been conducted in the farmers field for transfer of technology at grass root level. In the area of sericulture, an integrated pest management package (IPM) comprising uzicide and release of parasitoid *(Nesoynx thymus)* developed to control uzifly a serious pest of silkworm at farmers level has been successful. For quality improvement a process has been developed for degumming of silk with fungal proteases as valuable alternative. Under silkworm genome programme, more than 375 DNA markers have been developed and used for fingerprinting of solkworm.

(b) and (c) Regular training programmes/courses are being conducted in the area of agricultural biotechnology. All the CPMB's had an in-built component of training. In the area of biofertilizers/biopesticides more than 5000 training courses were organized during the last 5 years. At least six such courses in the area of tissue culture and biotechnology were conducted both by DBT and ICAR.These have to a great extent addressed the training requirements of the farming community.

Research in Nanotechnology

2631. SHRI SUNIL SHASTRI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to promote research in the field of Nanotechnology; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SICENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a)Yes, Sir. Government has launched a new programme titled'Nanomaterials Science &Technology Initiative (NSTI)' to promote research and development in this field in the 10th five year plan.

(b) Does not arise.